



The anthelmintic and antiprotozoal effect of pumpkin and coriander powder, administered in feed to pigs from a low input farm.

Parasitic diseases are responsible for substantial losses in reproduction and productivity in swine, creating a major impairment to efficient and profitable livestock management. The use of phytotherapeutic remedies has notably increased over the past decade due to their bioavailability, decreased toxicity, non-polluting nature, and to some extent due to their antiparasitic effect. The aim of this study was to evaluate the antiparasitic potential of *Cucurbita pepo* L. and *Coriandrum sativum* L. against protozoa and nematodes found in swine. The samples were collected from weaners, fatteners, and sows and examined via flotation (Willis and McMaster), active sedimentation, Ziehl-Neelsen staining as modified by Henricksen, a modified Blagg method, and eggs/oocyst culture.

The parasite species detected were *Ascaris suum*, *Trichuris suis*, *Oesophagostomum spp.*, *Balantioides coli* (syn. *Balantidium coli*), *Eimeria spp.*, and *Cryptosporidium spp.*, depending on age category. A dose of 500 mg/kg bw/day of *C. pepo* and 170 mg/kg bw/day of *C. sativum* powders, administered for ten consecutive days, demonstrated a pronounced anthelmintic (pumpkin) and antiprotozoal (coriander) effect against the aforementioned parasites. Future studies are required to ascertain the optimal dose that maximizes their antiparasitic effectiveness. The current study represents the first Romanian report on the *in vivo* antiparasitic activity of these two plants tested on digestive parasites in swine.

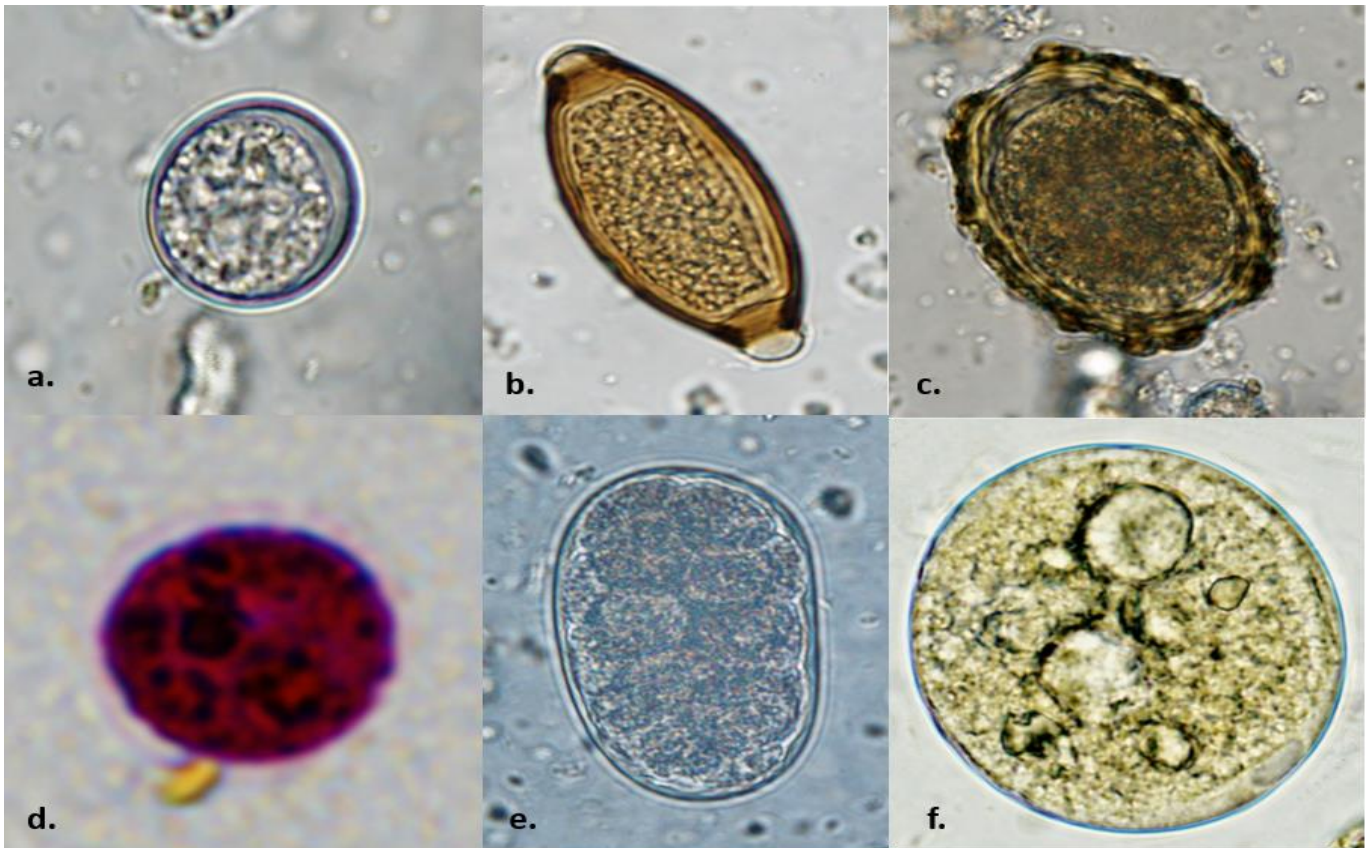


Mangalitza and Bazna pigs from a low input farm



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Eimeria spp. oocyst (a.), *Trichuris suis* egg (b.), *Ascaris suum* egg (c.), *Cryptosporidium* spp. oocyst (d.), *Oesophagostomum* spp. egg (e). *Balantidium coli* cyst (f.)



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